

Remarks:

Claims 1-4 and 6-27 are pending in this application. Applicant has amended claim 1 and presented new claims 24-27. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicant has amended the specification to delete references the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure.

The Examiner indicated the claims 5-13, 15, 16, 19, and 20 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite subject matter of claim 5 and added new claim 24 to recite subject matter of claims 1 and 15 and new claim 26 to recite subject matter of claims 1 and 19. Dependent claim 26 recites subject matter of claim 16 and dependent claim 27 recites subject matter of claim 20. All dependent claims depend from an independent claim that the Examiner indicated is allowable. Therefore, all pending claims recite allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 17, 18, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,640,901 to Appleford et al. The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 14, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 3,536,135 to Dozier. The Examiner rejects claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dozier in view of Appleford et al. These rejections are moot since only claims that the Examiner indicated are allowable are now pending in this application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

requests withdrawal of these rejections.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application and early issuance of the notice of allowance.

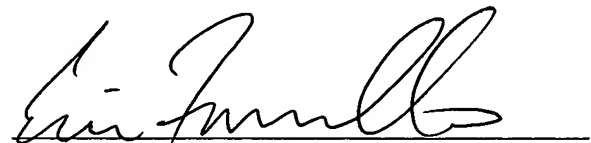
If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

12/13/05



Eric J. Franklin, Reg. No. 37,134
Attorney for Applicant
Venable LLP
575 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: 202 344 4936